

Metternich for Caroline were any obstacles to the great plan of getting rid of the last Napoleonic Sovereign. Furious at this, Murat, ever rash, the moment he heard of the landing of Napoleon, distrusting the Austrians, afraid of Napoleon "not giving him the object of his dreams, the whole of Italy, and wishing to force the hand of Napoleon, at once, with incredible folly, marched against the Austrians. He penetrated to the Po, but had to retire, and the Austrians, under Neipperg, afterwards to be the husband of Maria Louisa, forced him from his throne by the 20th of May. Murat fled to France and Corsica, leading a wretched life in hiding, but refusing the Austrian offer of an asylum if he would pledge his honor not to leave the Austrian dominions. At last he landed in Calabria, in a desperate attempt to recover his kingdom, was seized and shot on the 13th. of October, 1815, — a deed which it is unnecessary to characterize. He died as he had lived, a brave but theatrical man, with his last breath giving the order to the firing party to spare his face. He deserved a better fate, but perhaps the Botirbon was mistaken in his cruelty, and, while attempting to revenge the death of the Due d'Enghien, of which Murat was guiltless, may have saved Murat the misery of the wandering life he would have had to share with the family which had raised and ruined him by its alliance.

Bernadotte had been Crown Prince of Sweden from 1810. In 1813 and 1814 he had led an army against Napoleon, having great hopes of gaining the crown of France if the Emperor were dethroned. He had a difficult part to play — to please the Allies whose votes he hoped to gain, while any victory won by his forces might be fatal to his chances with the French. He certainly would have been put forward by the Allies if it had been once determined that neither Napoleon nor the Boirbons were to be allowed to reign; but the claims of the Bourbons were too strong; and in any case it is impossible to believe that he would ever have been accepted by the army or by the nation. It is satisfactory to note his total failure to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. The Allies became suspicious of him in 1814, and he had to